



Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

1804/52121

REC'D 19 OCT 2004

WIPO

PCT

Bescheinigung

Certificate

Attestation

Die angehefteten Unterlagen stimmen mit der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung der auf dem nächsten Blatt bezeichneten europäischen Patentanmeldung überein.

The attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed.

Les documents fixés à cette attestation sont conformes à la version initialement déposée de la demande de brevet européen spécifiée à la page suivante.

Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

03103998.5

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
p.o.

R C van Dijk



Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

Anmeldung Nr:
Application no.: 03103998.5
Demande no:

Anmeldetag:
Date of filing: 29.10.03
Date de dépôt:

Anmelder/Applicant(s)/Demandeur(s):

Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.
Groenewoudseweg 1
5621 BA Eindhoven
PAYS-BAS

Bezeichnung der Erfindung/Title of the invention/Titre de l'invention:
(Falls die Bezeichnung der Erfindung nicht angegeben ist, siehe Beschreibung.
If no title is shown please refer to the description.
Si aucun titre n'est indiqué se référer à la description.)

Gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems and MRI system
comprising a gradient coil system

In Anspruch genommene Priorität(en) / Priority(ies) claimed /Priorité(s)
revendiquée(s)
Staat/Tag/Aktenzeichen/State/Date/File no./Pays/Date/Numéro de dépôt:

Internationale Patentklassifikation/International Patent Classification/
Classification internationale des brevets:

G01R33/20

Am Anmeldetag benannte Vertragstaaten/Contracting states designated at date of
filing/Etats contractants désignées lors du dépôt:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL
PT RO SE SI SK TR LI

Gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems and MRI system comprising a gradient coil system

The present invention is related to a gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) systems. Further on, the invention is related to a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system comprising such a gradient coil system.

5 The basic components of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system are the main magnet system, the gradient coil system, the RF system and the signal processing system. The main magnet system comprises a bore hole enabling the entry of an object to be analyzed by the MRI system and generates a strong uniform static field for polarization of nuclear spins in the object to be analyzed. The gradient coil system is designed to produce time-varying magnetic fields of controlled spatial non-uniformity. The gradient coil system is
10 a crucial part of the MRI system because gradient fields are essential for signal localization. The RF system mainly consists of a transmitter coil and a receiver coil, whereby the transmitter coil is capable of generating a rotating magnetic field for excitation of a spin system, and whereby the receiver coil converts a precessing magnetization into electrical signals. The signal processing system generates images on basis of the electrical signals.

15 According to the prior art the gradient coil system comprises normally three orthogonal primary coil-like elements, namely a so-called X, Y and Z primary coil. The X, Y and Z nomenclature refers to the imaginary orthogonal axes used in describing MRI systems, whereby the Z axis is an axis co-axial with the axis of the bore hole of the main magnet system, whereby the X axis is the vertical axis extending from the center of the magnetic
20 filed, and whereby the Y axis is the corresponding horizontal axis orthogonal to the Z axis and the X axis. In addition to the three primary coil-like elements a gradient coil system according to the prior art may also comprise three orthogonal shield coil-like elements, namely a so-called X, Y and Z shield coil.

25 From prior art multi mode gradient coil systems are known, whereby such a multi mode gradient coil system according to the prior art comprises two X primary coil-like elements, two Y primary coil-like elements and two Z primary coil-like elements. The system may also comprise two X shield coil-like elements, two Y shield coil-like elements and two Z shield coil-like elements. A multi mode gradient coil system is sometimes also called modular gradient coil system or twin-coil system.

The prior art document US 5,736,858 discloses a modular gradient coil system for a MRI system. However, it should be noted that the X, Y and Z nomenclature used in US 5,736,858 is slightly different: According to US 5,736,858 the Z axis is the axis co-axial with the axis of the bore hole of the main magnet system; the Y axis is the vertical axis extending from the center of the magnetic filed; the X axis is the corresponding horizontal axis orthogonal to the Z axis and the Y axis. However, in both nomenclatures the Z axis is the axis co-axial with the axis of the bore hole of the main magnet system.

It should be noted that the terms "coil" and "coil-like element" used within this patent application should cover all types of coils, also coils having shapes as disclosed in US 6,078,177. US 6,078,177 discloses "3D-type" of a coil, whereby primary and shield coils are connected with a set of conductors on a conical shape between an inner surface and an outer surface of the gradient coil system, whereby said conical shape could also be a flange. So, within the present invention a "coil" or a "coil-like element" can be either a type of conventional design or such a "3D-type".

The present invention is related to a modular gradient coil system of such a MRI system.

The present invention provides a gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems, comprising at least two X primary coil-like elements, at least two Y primary coil-like elements and one Z primary coil-like element providing a modular gradient coil system, whereby the at least two X primary coil-like elements have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, whereby the at least two Y primary coil-like elements have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, and whereby the one Z primary coil-like element is placed between the X primary coil-like elements and the Y primary coil-like elements.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention the gradient coil system comprises in addition at least two X shield coil-like elements, at least two Y shield coil-like elements and one Z shield coil-like element, whereby the one Z shield coil-like element is placed between the X shield coil-like elements and the Y shield coil-like elements.

In accordance with a further improved, preferred embodiment of the invention the Z coil-like elements are made from hollow conductors, whereby the Z coil-like elements are directly cooled by a cooling fluid, e.g. water, flowing through said respective hollow conductors.

Further on, according to the present invention, the modular gradient coil system comprises two X primary coil-like elements, two Y primary coil-like elements and

one Z primary coil-like element providing an inner coil arrangement; two X shield coil-like elements, two Y shield coil-like elements and one Z shield coil-like element providing an outer coil arrangement; whereby a layer comprising epoxy with filler material and/or a GRP tube layer are positioned between the inner coil arrangement and the outer coil arrangement.

5 In addition, the present invention provides a magnetic resonance imaging system comprising such a gradient coil system.

Embodiments of a gradient coil system and a magnetic resonance imaging
10 system in accordance with the invention will be described in the following with reference to the figures, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a MRI system according to the prior art;

Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional view through a detail of a gradient coil system
according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 3 shows a cross-sectional view through a detail of a gradient coil system according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows a cross-sectional view through a detail of a gradient coil system
according to a third embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 shows an enlarged detail of the embodiment according to Figure 4.

20

Figure 1 shows a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system 1 known from prior art which includes a main magnet system 2 for generating a steady magnetic field, and also several gradient coils providing a gradient coil system 3 for generating additional
25 magnetic fields having a gradient in the X, Y, Z directions. The Z direction of the coordinate system shown corresponds to the direction of the steady magnetic field in the main magnet system 2 by convention. The Z axis is an axis co-axial with the axis of a bore hole of the main magnet system 2, whereby the X axis is the vertical axis extending from the center of the magnetic field, and whereby the Y axis is the corresponding horizontal axis orthogonal to
30 the Z axis and the X axis.

The gradient coils of the gradient coil system 3 are fed by a power supply unit 4. An RF transmitter coil 5 serves to generate RF magnetic fields and is connected to an RF transmitter and modulator 6.

A receiver coil is used to receive the magnetic resonance signal generated by the RF field in the object 7 to be examined, for example a human or animal body. This coil may be the same coil as the RF transmitter coil 5. Furthermore, the main magnet system 2 encloses an examination space which is large enough to accommodate a part of the body 7 to be examined. The RF coil 5 is arranged around or on the part of the body 7 to be examined in this examination space. The RF transmitter coil 5 is connected to a signal amplifier and demodulation unit 10 via a transmission/reception circuit 9.

The control unit 11 controls the RF transmitter and modulator 6 and the power supply unit 4 so as to generate special pulse sequences which contain RF pulses and gradients. The phase and amplitude obtained from the demodulation unit 10 are applied to a processing unit 12. The processing unit 12 processes the presented signal values so as to form an image by transformation. This image can be visualized, for example by means of a monitor 8.

According to the present invention, the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system 1 comprises an improved gradient coil system which will be described below in greater detail. The present invention provides a new gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems.

Fig. 2 shows a detail of a gradient coil system 13 according to a first embodiment of the present invention illustrating schematically the radial build-up structure.

The gradient coil system 13 according to Fig. 2 comprises two X primary coils, two Y primary coils and one Z primary coil. The two X primary coils have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves, whereby a first non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ has a smaller linearity volume than a second linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$. The two Y primary coils have also mutually different linearity volumes, whereby a first non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ has a smaller linearity volume than a second linear Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$.

It should be noted, that according to the present invention the two X (and two Y) primary coils can also have mutually different linearity volumes in combination with each other, meaning that the first X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ has an intermediate linearity volume, while the second X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ is designed as a correction coil, which, in combination with the first X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ results in a smaller or larger linearity volume, depending on the polarity of the current in the correction coil. Such a second X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ designed as a correction coil can be driven with a separate amplifier (not shown) or can be connected in series with the first X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ by a switch (not shown). Such a switch can also connect the correction coil in reverse polarity.

The one Z primary coil Z_{PC} is positioned or placed or sandwiched between the X primary coils and the Y primary coils.

The present invention provides a modular gradient coil system with two X primary coils and two Y primary coils, but with only one Z primary coil. It is the finding of the present invention that only one Z primary coil is sufficient to provide an effective modular gradient coil system 13. The Z primary coil is more efficient than the X and Y primary coils and has a higher PNS (peripheral nerve stimulation) threshold. There is therefore no need for a twin Z primary coil.

According to the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, the one Z primary coil Z_{PC} is placed between the two X primary coils and the two Y primary coils in a way that on the first side of the Z primary coil Z_{PC} there is positioned the first non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ and the first non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$. On this first side of the one Z primary coil Z_{PC} the non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ is positioned between the Z primary coil Z_{PC} and the non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$. On the adjacent second side of the Z primary coil Z_{PC} there is arranged the second linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ and the second linear Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$. On this second side of the Z primary coil Z_{PC} the linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ is positioned between said Z primary coil Z_{PC} and the linear Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$. The one Z primary coil is positioned or sandwiched between the two X primary coils and two Y primary coils. The non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ is located at the most inner radial position. It should be noted that the radial order of the two X and two Y primary coils can be different from the embodiment shown in Fig. 2. E.g., the non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ could be located at the most inner radial position.

In the case that one of the two X (and one of the two Y) primary coils is designed as a correction coil, it is preferred to locate the correction coil at the larger radius of the coil arrangement.

The five primary coils of the arrangement according to Fig. 2 are glued together. Between each pair of two adjacent primary coils an electrical insulation layer is provided. This means that between the first non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ and the first non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ there is positioned a first electrical insulation layer. Furthermore, an electrical insulation layer is positioned between the first non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ and the one Z primary coil Z_{PC} , between the Z primary coil Z_{PC} and the second linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ and between said linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$ and the second linear Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$. The electrical insulation layers have also an effect as thermal insulation, whereby the thermal insulation is an undesired side-effect of the electrical insulation layers.

The one Z primary coil is made of hollow conductors and is directly cooled by water or another cooling fluid that flows through said hollow conductors. The one Z primary coil Z_{PC} is sandwiched between the two X primary coils and two Y primary coils to provide efficient cooling of said two X primary coils and said two Y primary coils. The two X
5 primary coils and two Y primary coils are indirectly cooled by said one Z primary coil. If the Z primary coil would not be sandwiched between the two X primary coils and the two Y primary coils but would be positioned outside said two X primary coils and said two Y primary coils, the indirect cooling provided by the one Z primary coil for the two X primary coils and the two Y primary coils would not be effective enough, because the heat would
10 have to pass four electrical insulation layers which also act as the undesired thermal insulation.

Fig. 3 shows a detail of a second embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 3 shows a gradient coils system 14 comprising an inner coil arrangement 15 and an outer coil arrangement 16. The inner coil arrangement 15 of the gradient coil system 14 according to
15 Fig. 3 is designed like the gradient coil system according to Fig. 2 comprising two X primary coils $X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$, two Y primary coils $Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$ and one Z primary coil Z_{PC} .

In addition to this inner coil arrangement 15 the gradient coil system 14 according to Fig. 3 comprises the outer coil arrangement 16, whereby the outer coil arrangement 16 comprises two X shield coils, two Y shield coils and one Z shield coil. The
20 one Z shield coil is placed or sandwiched between the two X shield coils and the two Y shield coils. On both sides of said Z shield coil Z_{SC} there is arranged one X shield coil and one Y shield coil. The two X shield coils $X1_{SC}$ and $X2_{SC}$ correspond to the two X primary coils $X1_{PC}$ and $X2_{PC}$ in a way that a first X shield coil $X1_{SC}$ provides good shielding for the first X primary coil $X1_{PC}$ and a second X shield coil $X2_{SC}$ provides good shielding for the
25 second X primary coil $X2_{PC}$. The two Y shield coils $Y1_{SC}$ and $Y2_{SC}$ correspond to the two Y primary coils $Y1_{PC}$ and $Y2_{PC}$ in a way that a first Y shield coil $Y1_{SC}$ provides good shielding for the first Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$ and a second Y shield coil $Y2_{SC}$ provides good shielding for the second Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$.

As shown in Fig. 3, on one side of the Z shield coil Z_{SC} there is positioned the
30 first X shield coil $X1_{SC}$ and the first Y shield coil $Y1_{SC}$. On the other side of the one Z shield coil Z_{SC} there is positioned the second X shield coil $X2_{SC}$ and the second Y shield coil $Y2_{SC}$. The first X shield coil $X1_{SC}$ is positioned between the one Z shield coil Z_{SC} and the first Y shield coil $Y1_{SC}$, whereby the second Y shield coil $Y2_{SC}$ is positioned between the one Z shield coil Z_{SC} and the second X shield coil $X2_{SC}$. The radius of the X and Y shield coils can

either be inside or outside the Z shield coil. This is independent from the radial order of the primary coils.

It should be noted that the shield coils of the outer coil arrangement 16 are glued together like the primary coils of the inner coil arrangement 15. In order to avoid repetitions, it should only be mentioned that for the outer coil arrangement there are also provided electrical insulation layers between each pair of adjacent shield coils, whereby the Z shield coil Z_{SC} which is positioned or sandwiched between the two X shield coils and the two Y shield coils is directly cooled by a cooling fluid, e.g. water, flowing through hollow conductors from which the Z shield coil is made thereby cooling indirectly the X shield coils and Y shield coils.

It can be taken from Fig. 3 that two layers are positioned between the inner coil arrangement 15 and the outer coil arrangement 16. A first layer 17 is provided in form of an epoxy layer with filler material. Glass spheres can be used as filler material. The function of the layer 17 is the coupling of forces of the primary and shield coils for compensation purposes. A second layer 18 is provided in form of a so-called GRP tube. The GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastic) tube consists of a carrier tube of winded glass filaments filled with plastic. The GRP tube adds stiffness to the gradient coil system 14. The first layer 17 is positioned adjacent to the inner coil arrangement 15 and the second layer 18 provided in form of the GRE tube is positioned adjacent to the outer coil arrangement 16. It is also possible that the position of the first layer 17 and the second layer 18 may be changed, meaning that the GRE tube is positioned adjacent to the inner coil arrangement 15 and the layer 17 is positioned adjacent to the outer coil arrangement 16.

Figs. 4 and 5 show a third embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the detail V according to Fig. 4. Fig. 4 shows a gradient coil system 19 which is designed in analogy to the gradient coil system 14 according to Fig. 3. Therefore, in order to avoid repetitions, the same reference numerals are used for the same functional and structural parts.

As shown in Fig. 4, the gradient coils system 19 comprises like the gradient coils system 14 according to Fig. 4 an inner coil arrangement 15 consisting of five primary coils, an outer coil arrangement 16 consisting of five shield coils and the layers 17 and 18 positioned between the inner coil arrangement 15 and the outer coil arrangement 16. The inner coil arrangement 15 comprising five primary coils, namely the non-linear X primary coil $X1_{PC}$, the non-linear Y primary coil $Y1_{PC}$, the linear X primary coil $X2_{PC}$, the linear Y primary coil $Y2_{PC}$ and the one Z primary coil Z_{PC} , corresponds exactly to the inner coil

arrangement 15 of the embodiment according Fig. 3, whereby Figs. 4 and 5 explicitly show the hollow conductors 20 which form the Z primary coil Z_{PC} and the electrical insulation layers 21 positioned between each pair of coils.

5 The gradient coil system 19 according to Fig. 4 differs from the gradient coil system 14 according to Fig. 3 by the position of the X shield coils and Y shield coils within the outer coil arrangement 16 relative to the one Z shield coil and the layer 18. In the embodiment according to Fig. 4, the first X shield coil $X1_{SC}$ and the first Y shield coil $Y1_{SC}$ are positioned between the one Z shield coil and the layer 18, whereby in the embodiment according to Fig. 3 the second X and Y shield coils $X2_{SC}$ and $Y2_{SC}$ are positioned between
10 the Z shield coil and the layer 18. For that, in the embodiment according to Fig. 4, the first X shield coil $X2_{SC}$ and the first Y shield coil $Y2_{SC}$ are positioned at the outer side and of the outer coil arrangement 16.

The present invention provides a gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems having primary coils or a combination of primary coils and shield coils. The
15 primary coils and/or the shield coils each comprise at least two X coils, at least two Y coils and one Z coil. The Z coil is sandwiched between the at least two X coils and the at least two Y coils. The single Z coil comprises hollow conductors for direct cooling purposes whereby water flows through said hollow conductors. The X coils and Y coils are indirectly cooled by said Z coil. Instead of water, a different cooling fluid can be transported through the hollow
20 conductors of the Z coils.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS:

	1	magnetic resonance imaging system
	2	main magnet system
5	3	gradient coil system
	4	power supply unit
	5	RF transmitter coil
	6	modulator
	7	object
10	8	monitor
	9	transmission/reception circuit
	10	demodulation unit
	11	control unit
	12	processing unit
15	13	gradient coil system
	14	gradient coil system
	15	inner coil arrangement
	16	outer coil arrangement
	17	layer
20	18	layer
	19	gradient coil system
	20	hollow conductors
	21	electrical insulation layer

CLAIMS:

1. A gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging systems, comprising at least two X primary coil-like elements, at least two Y primary coil-like elements and one Z primary coil-like element providing a modular gradient coil system, whereby the at least two X primary coil-like elements have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, whereby the at least two Y primary coil-like elements have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, and whereby the one Z primary coil-like element is placed between the X primary coil-like elements and the Y primary coil-like elements.

2. A gradient coil system according to claim 1, characterized in that the one Z primary coil-like element is placed between the X primary coil-like elements and the Y primary coil-like elements in a way that at both sides of the Z primary coil-like element there is arranged at least one X primary coil-like element and at least one Y primary coil-like element.

3. A gradient coil system according to claim 2, characterized in that the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) is placed between the two X primary coil-like elements and the two Y primary coil-like elements in a way that at one side of the Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) there is arranged a first X primary coil-like element ($X1_{PC}$) and a first Y primary coil-like element ($Y1_{PC}$), and that at the other side of the Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) there is arranged a second X primary coil-like element ($X2_{PC}$) and a second Y primary coil-like element ($Y2_{PC}$).

4. A gradient coil system according to claim 1, characterized by at least two X shield coil-like elements, at least two Y shield coil-like elements and one Z shield coil-like element, whereby the one Z shield coil-like element is placed between the X shield coil-like elements and the Y shield coil-like elements.

5. A gradient coil system according to claim 4, characterized in that the one Z shield coil-like element is placed between the X shield coil-like elements and the Y shield coil-like elements in a way that at both sides of the Z shield coil-like element there is arranged at least one X shield coil-like element and at least one Y shield coil-like element.

5

6. A gradient coil system according to claim 5, characterized in that the one Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) is placed between the two X shield coil-like elements and the two Y shield coil-like elements in a way that at one side of the Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) there is arranged a first X shield coil-like element ($X1_{SC}$) and a first Y shield coil-like element ($Y1_{SC}$), and that at the other side of the Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) there is arranged a second X shield coil-like element ($X2_{SC}$) and a second Y shield coil-like element ($Y2_{SC}$).

10

7. A gradient coil system according to claim 1, characterized in that the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) is made from hollow conductors, and that the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) is directly cooled by a cooling fluid flowing through said hollow conductors.

15

8. A gradient coil system according to claim 7, characterized in that the two X primary coil-like elements ($X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$) and the two Y primary coil-like elements ($Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$) positioned at both sides of the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) are indirectly cooled by said directly cooled Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}).

20

9. A gradient coil system according to claim 4, characterized in that the one Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) is made from hollow conductors, and that the one Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) is directly cooled by a cooling fluid flowing through said hollow conductors.

25

10. A gradient coil system according to claim 9, characterized in that the two X shield coil-like elements ($X1_{SC}$, $X2_{SC}$) and the two Y shield coil-like elements ($Y1_{SC}$, $Y2_{SC}$) positioned around the one Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) are indirectly cooled by the directly cooled Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}).

30

11. A gradient coil system according to claim 4, characterized in that the two X primary coil-like elements ($X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$), the two Y primary coil-like elements ($Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$) and the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) provide an inner coil arrangement, that the two X shield coil-like elements ($X1_{SC}$, $X2_{SC}$), the two Y shield coil-like elements ($Y1_{SC}$, $Y2_{SC}$) and the one Z shield coil-like elements (Z_{SC}) provide an outer coil arrangement, and that a layer (17) comprising epoxy with filler material and/or a GRP tube layer (18) are positioned between the inner coil arrangement and the outer coil arrangement.
12. A gradient coil system according to claim 11, characterized in that the layer (17) is positioned adjacent the inner coil arrangement, and that the GRP tube layer (18) is positioned adjacent the outer coil arrangement.
13. A gradient coil system according to claims 3, 6 and 11, characterized in that the second X primary coil-like element ($X2_{PC}$) and the second Y primary coil-like element ($Y2_{PC}$) are posited between the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) and the epoxy or glass layer, and that the second X shield coil-like element ($X2_{SC}$) and the second Y shield coil-like element ($Y2_{SC}$) are posited between the one Z shield coil-like element (Z_{SC}) and the GRE tube.
14. A magnetic resonance imaging system, comprising a main magnet system, a gradient coil system, a RF system and a signal processing system, characterized in that the gradient coil system is a gradient coil system according to any one of the preceding claims 1 to 13.

ABSTRACT:

The present invention relates to a gradient coil system for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) systems and to a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system comprising such a gradient coil system.

5 Magnetic resonance imaging systems comprise at least a main magnet system, a gradient coil system, a RF system and a signal processing system.

The gradient coil system according to the present invention comprises at least two X primary coil-like elements ($X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$), at least two Y primary coil-like elements ($Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$) and one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) providing a modular gradient coil system, whereby the at least two X primary coil-like elements ($X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$) have mutually
10 different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, whereby the at least two Y primary coil-like elements ($Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$) have mutually different linearity volumes by themselves or in combination with each other, and whereby the one Z primary coil-like element (Z_{PC}) is placed between the X primary coil-like elements ($X1_{PC}$, $X2_{PC}$) and the Y primary coil-like elements ($Y1_{PC}$, $Y2_{PC}$).

15

Fig. 1

1/3

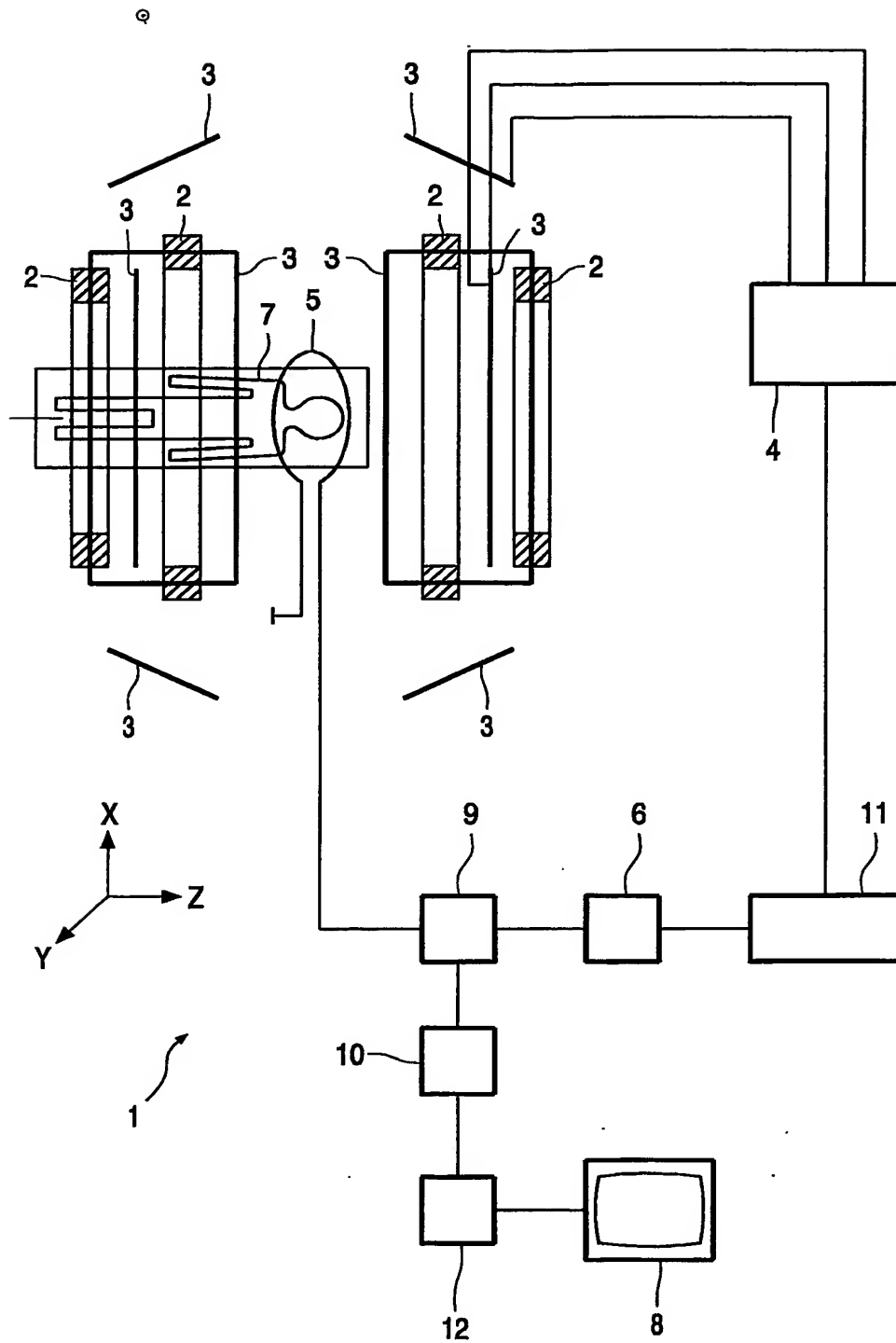


FIG. 1

2/3

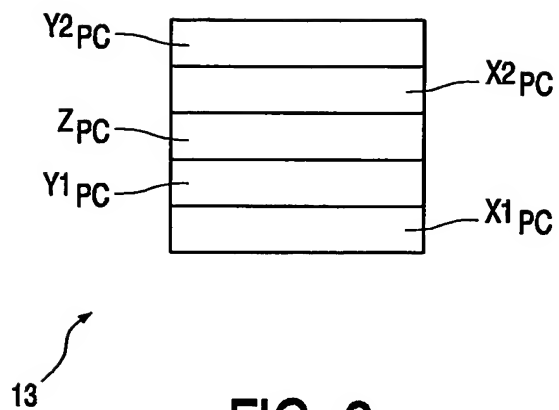


FIG. 2

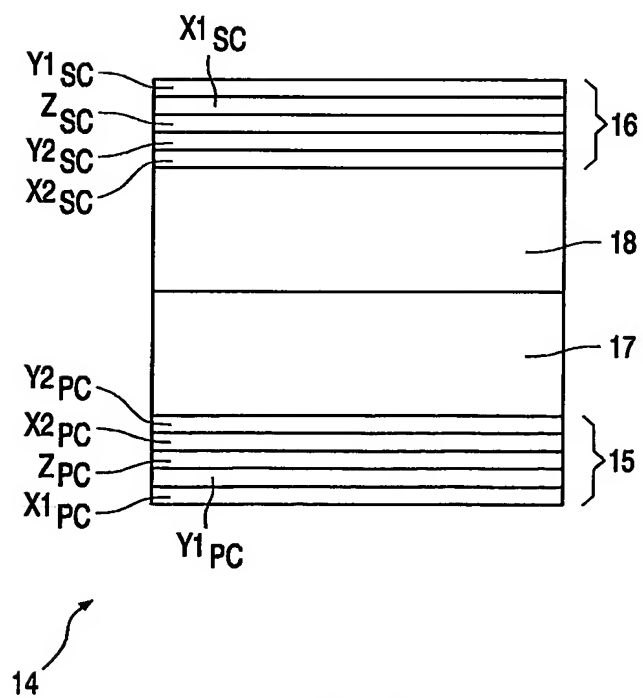


FIG. 3

3/3

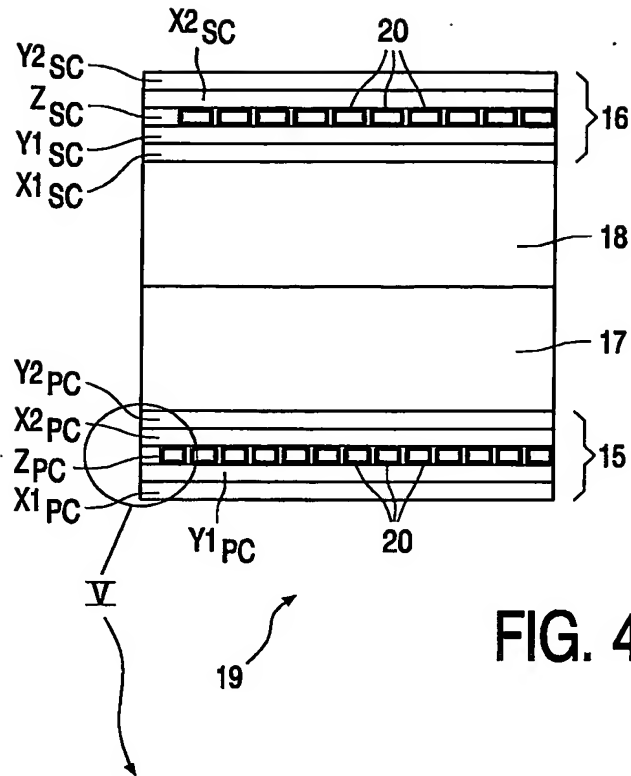


FIG. 4

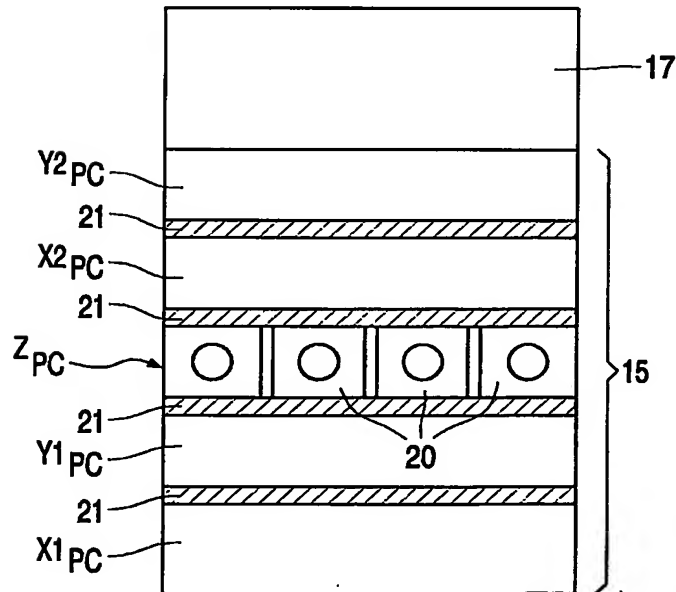


FIG. 5

PCT/IB2004/052121

